

Little Kaukauna Lock and Dam, Lockkeeper's Residence
Approximately 200 feet northeast of the upper gate
Rockland
Brown County
Wisconsin

HAER No. WI-89-A

HAER
WIS
5-ROCK,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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LITTLE KAUKAUNA LOCK AND DAM, LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE

HAER NO. WI-89-A

Location: The lockkeeper's residence at Little Kaukauna is located northeast of the lock on a peninsula situated between the lock and an industrial power channel of the Fox River in the SW1/4, Section 18, T22N, R20E, Civil Town of Rockland, Brown County, Wisconsin.

UTM: 16/410460/4914240; USGS Quadrangle: De Pere, Wisconsin 7.5' series

Date of Construction: 1911

Engineer: United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

Architect: United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

Present Owner: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: The Lockkeeper's house served as an on-site headquarters for the lockkeeper responsible for operating the locks. In addition, the house served as a residence for the lockkeeper's family. The residence functioned as part of the daily operation of the Little Kaukauna Lock and Dam Complex.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in 1995 in accordance with requirements detailed in a June 19, 1994 letter from Gregory D. Kendrick, Chief, History Branch, NPS to Dale Monteith, Acting Chief, Planning Division, USACOE, Detroit District. The Lower Fox system remains basically operational but was placed in caretaker status by the USACOE in 1982. The USACOE plans to divest itself of the Lower Fox system as soon as is feasible; therefore, NPS requested this documentation. All documentation conforms to HAER standards.

Dr. John D. Richards, Principal Investigator; Georgia A. Lusk, Patricia B. Richards, and Robert J. Watson, Project Archivists with Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center, Inc.; Joseph Paskus, Project Photographer.

LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE

The lockmaster's house at the Little Kaukauna lock facility was constructed in 1911, on a level portion of the peninsula between the lock and an industrial power channel. The lockmaster's house is a 1 1/2 story, Colonial Revival style dwelling common to the Fox River locks system. It has a gambrel roof, shed-roofed dormers, and a full poured concrete basement. The roof and dormers are clad with asbestos shingles.¹

The first story is of brick construction from grade to a height of 10 feet 9"; the upper one-half story is cedar shingle over wood frame.² Interior walls are constructed with 2 inch by 4 inch studs spaced 16 inches on center. The floor joists are 2 inches by 10 inches also spaced 16 inches on center. The front entry is located on the southwest side of the house and is protected by an entryway with a flat asbestos shingle roof. An enclosed rear entry with a hipped asbestos shingle roof is located on the northeast side of the dwelling. Dwelling dimensions are 27.8 feet north-south and 26 feet east-west; maximum height from foundation to roof peak is about 28 feet.³

The cellar walls and floor are constructed from poured concrete. Wall thickness is 16 inches, floor thickness is 8 inches. The brick chimney is centrally located. A cistern with an interior brick filter wall occupies the northeast corner of the cellar.⁴ The cistern is fed by two inlets; a suction pipe leads from within the filter wall to a pump next to the kitchen sink.

The first floor plan of the Little Kaukauna lockmaster's house consists of six rooms, a stair hall, and a staircase leading to the second floor. Floor to ceiling height is 10 feet 9 inches. The rear entry leads into a landing. The kitchen is accessed through the staircase hallway and is located in the northwest corner of the house. The kitchen is 10 feet 6 inches by 11 feet 6 inches. It has a pump and sink in its southeast corner. A pantry is built into the northwest corner of the kitchen, and is accessed through a door immediately west of the rear entrance.⁵

All first floor windows are glazed with four panes of either 14 inch by 28 inch or 10 inch by 22 inch glass. One window is situated on the west wall of the kitchen and another window is located in the rear of the pantry. Just south of the kitchen is an alcove that is 6 feet 10 inches by 5 feet 6 inches and has a window on the south wall. To the east of the kitchen is a 9 foot by 12 foot 10 inch dining room. The kitchen and dining room are separated by the staircase hallway.⁶ One window is located on the north wall of the dining room, and another window is cut into the east wall.

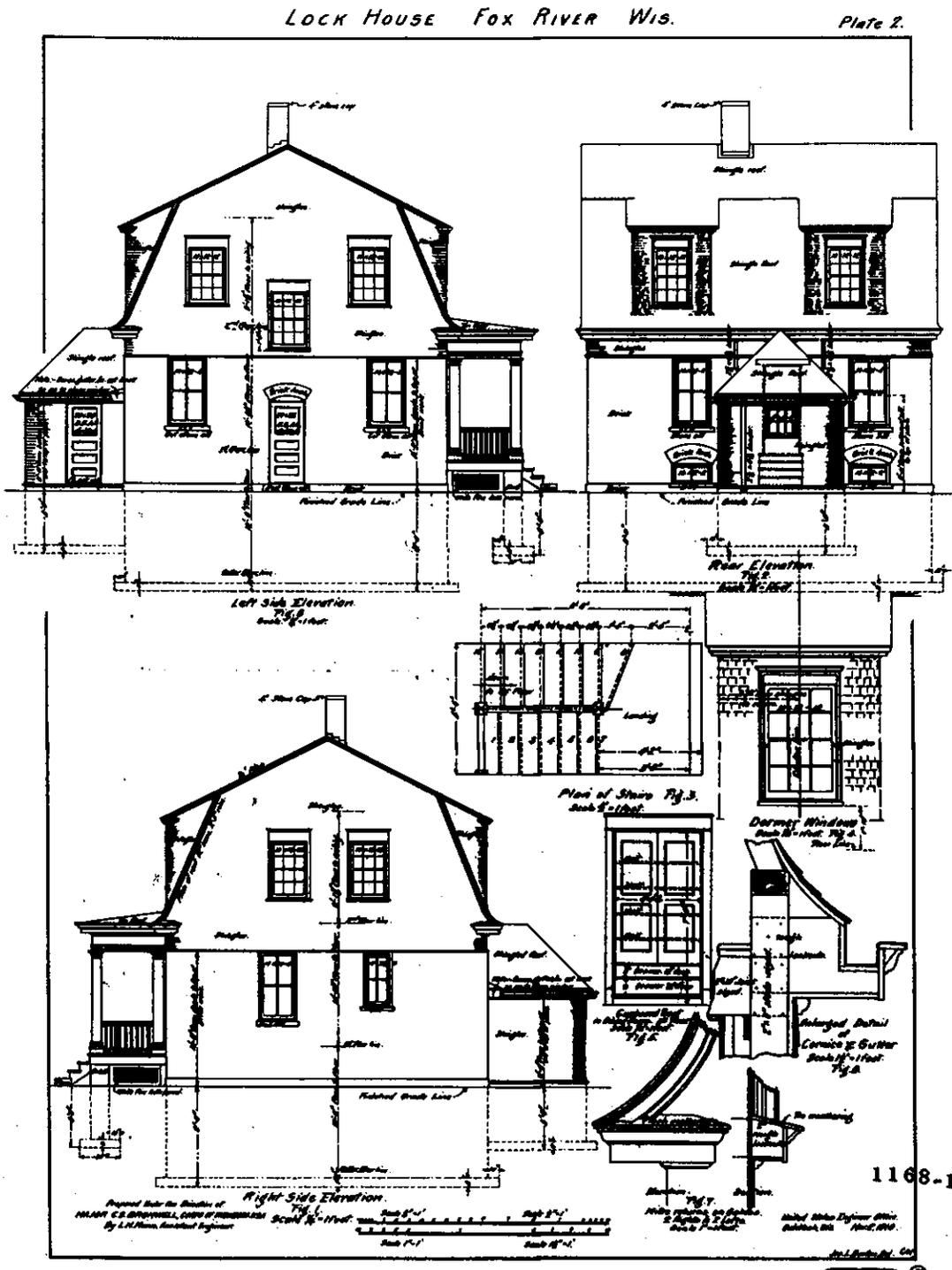
There is a cased opening at the south end of the dining room which leads to a 14 foot by 10 foot 10 inch parlor. The parlor, located in the southeast corner of the first floor has a single window on the east wall, and two windows on the south wall.⁷ A vestibule is located off the parlor, and leads outside to the front porch.

The second floor plan consists of three rooms, two closets and a hallway. Floor to ceiling height of the second floor is 9 feet 1 3/8 inches. A rail and spindle staircase with a central landing leads to the second floor. The staircase enters into a centrally located hallway which accesses all of the second floor rooms through a series of paneled doors. All upstairs windows are glazed with 12 panes of 10 inch by 12 inch glass. The northwest room is 9 feet by 11 feet 3 inches with north and west facing windows, the northeast room is 10 feet 6 inches by 15 feet with an east facing window, and the southwest room is 9 feet 3 inches by 14 feet 10 inches with west and south facing windows.⁸

ENDNOTES

- 1 USACOE, 1908, Lock House, Fox River, Wisconsin, 1908, File #1138, plate 2.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 USACOE, 1908, Lock House, Fox River, Wisconsin, File #1138, plate 1.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid., plate 2.
- 8 Ibid., plate 1.

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Photocopy of Plans for Lock House, Fox River, Wis. File #1168-1, Plate 2.